

OPINIONS ABOUT THE FIGHT.

PADDY RYAN'S GAMENESS AND SULLIVAN'S POWERFUL BLOWS.

Predictions by Joe Goss, Epik Holland, Barney Aaron, George Roche, Al Smith, Bill Edwards, Harry Hill, Prof. Mclellan, Richard K. Fox, and Old Uncle Bill Tovee.

Paddy Ryan, the Troy giant, and John L. Sullivan, the hard hitter of Boston, are to meet in the ring on Feb. 7, within 100 miles of New Orleans, to fight, according to the new rules of the London prize-ring, for \$5,000 and the heavyweight championship of the world. The announcement has brought to the minds of sportsmen the battles between Tom Hyer and Yankee Sullivan on Feb. 7, 1849; between Heyman and Morrissey, Oct. 20, 1855; and between Coburn and Mace, May 10, 1870. There is much talk and many opinions about the two present exponents of heavy-weight pugilism. Capt. Wm. H. Boist and Counselor Ned Mallahan were found talking about it at 34 Murray street.

"It's disgusting," said Boist, "to hear people talk about prize-fighters. In the days when I was about, they used to be some science, but now it is nothing but pawing and pounding, with the eyes closed half the time. I tell you what I think! If Ryan spars with Sullivan, he is fecked, because Sullivan will knock him out, but he goes right at him and fights at close quarters. Ryan will win, sure."

"My opinion is this," said Counselor Mallahan. "If it comes down to a game fight, Ryan will win."

Col. Joe Crocheron, the proprietor of the Brower House, was sitting behind his desk. The Colonel had seen more prize fights than any man in the field of history.

"I would be a terrible hit," he said, "if Ryan and Sullivan will deliver punishing blows, and the one that lasts will win the fight; that's my opinion."

"Well, I know that Sullivan can do it," was the reply, "but Sullivan is a sort of a stranger. He is the hardest hitter I ever saw, and I am not so sure that he will be a hit. Ryan is a baby in his hands. It is a pretty cheeky thing to do to match Ryan against him, but as there are two sides to the question, Ryan, being a game man, will be a hit."

Big Edwards, the popular ex-champion light weight, sat behind his bar.

"We all know that Sullivan is a tremendous hitter," said he, "while Ryan has had experience in the ring. I am sorry that I can't give any opinion as to who will get the fight. I am not so sure that either of them will win, but I have no axe to grind, but Sullivan ought to win."

The bottom fact of the issue," said George Roche, the middle-weight champion, "lies in a nutshell. Sullivan is a game man who will cut Ryan to pieces in twenty minutes; but I don't think he is a very active fighter, and I am not so sure that he will win the fight."

The reporter found Harry Hill in glory, surrounded by a crowd and decked out in his evelede and scratches his head. He is the stakeholder.

Ryan has had experience in the magic circle," said he, "and can stand a beating in the ring, and his hands are good; besides, he is longer in the reach, and has more power, and is more hand-to-hand than his opponent. I am not so sure that he will be a hit, but he is a hit."

"There is no doubt of it," said Patterson.

"I think it will be a good one," said Mike Donnan, "but I am afraid that Sullivan will do some heavy hitting. There is one thing you may be sure of—the fight will take place, and it will last over forty minutes, and I hope that it will last over thirty minutes, and I hope that the victor, who I am afraid that Sullivan will be, will win me."

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